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# 'Rambo Shultz' captures foreign policy limelight

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WASHINGTON — With the words "You've had it, pal," Secretary of State George P. Shultz punctuated the transformation of his cautious, public persona to that of a bulldog of a man whom Reagan aides have taken to calling "Rambo Shultz."

Rather than fading into the woodwork as he normally does on presidential trips, Mr. Shultz was the star of the recently concluded Far East visit, easily eclipsing President Reagan and the six other allied leaders who gathered in Tokyo for the annual economic summit.

The "new Shultz" began to surface at last November's U.S.-Soviet summit in Geneva, Switzerland, most notably on the dramatic final night when, in the presence of Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, he abruptly turned on a senior Kremlin aide and accused him of bringing the talks to a standstill.

Though done privately, the dramatic confrontation quickly made it into print as administration aides were unable to resist the delicious irony of a U.S. secretary of state denouncing a senior Soviet official to the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

Since then, there have been periodic sightings of a red-faced Mr. Shultz angrily thumping tables in far-flung international forums, usually when some foreign leader seeks to justify terrorist activities as a show of frustration by people with legitimate grievances.

Some Shultz aides say that the secretary tends to confine his public displays of pique to matters involving terrorism, about which he feels very strongly, and that on the normal run of diplomatic matters he continues to be a quiet, though forceful, presence.

That is not precisely true. A few days after his most famous anti-terrorist outburst, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in mid-December, he startled the White House and his own aides by saying he would resign if he was ever asked to take a lie detector test, forcing President Reagan to modify a Nov. 1 directive requiring polygraph testing throughout the government.

One administration aide speculated that Mr. Shultz had decided to be more outspoken because he realized that he stood to be overshadowed by other, less reserved, Cabi-

net officers — notably Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger and CIA Director William J. Casey.

"I think he realized if he was to be a force in foreign policy, he had to be more assertive," the official said.

The official also noted that Mr. Shultz, whose background is primarily in economics, had needed time to learn the ins and outs of complex foreign policy issues such as arms control. "I think he feels he's mastered these things now, and feels more confident dealing with them," he said.

The official offered an additional reason, too: "I think he's having fun."

Another administration official ascribed some of the change in Mr. Shultz to the departure of Robert C. McFarlane as national security adviser and his replacement by Vice Adm. John M. Poindexter.

Mr. McFarlane had a fully developed strategic world view. In addition, he was at ease with the press. Admiral Poindexter has generally avoided reporters, and his strong suit is widely believed to be crisis management, not global theorizing.

Thus, the role of chief foreign policy spokesman that Mr. Shultz previously shared with Mr. McFarlane has become for the moment his alone, the official said.

On the Far East trip, Mr. Shultz demonstrated his newfound public assertiveness on at least two occasions, first in Bali after a meeting between Mr. Reagan and Philippine Vice President Salvador Laurel, the second in Tokyo following issuance of the terrorism statement.

The Bali incident seemed to result more from a conflict of personalities than from a serious dispute on policy. Officials say that Mr. Laurel angered Mr. Shultz the day before the meeting by saying at a news conference that Mr. Reagan needed to clear away some "cobwebs of doubt" about his commitment to the new Philippine government of Corazon C. Aquino.

But in addition, officials say, Mr. Shultz was put off by Mr. Laurel's attitude during his meeting with Mr. Reagan, which aides described as more becoming of a local ward heelers than a senior government official.

In particular, though Mr. Shultz displayed little emotion during the meeting, he objected to what he viewed as Mr. Laurel's strong focus on the financial needs of the Philip-

pinas, which he seemed to think the United States should meet, and the short shrift he gave to past U.S. aid efforts.

Following the meeting, justified or not, Mr. Shultz did a slow burn, officials said. He was sizzling by the time he arrived at a news conference later in the afternoon to discuss the meeting.

He opened with his usual low-key description of the meeting, but in response to questions, it quickly became clear that it had not been a success, at least in terms of personal dynamics.

On the request for money, Mr. Shultz said, "Vice President Laurel, I must say, gave the impression that his needs were infinite." As to whether Mr. Reagan had dispelled the "cobwebs of doubt," Mr. Shultz angrily replied, "Let me remind you, the president is not on trial here."

But it was Mr. Shultz's performance in Tokyo after allied leaders had issued a surprisingly strong statement on terrorism and named Libya as a nation that sponsors terrorist activities that put the finishing touches on the new Shultz persona.

Asked what message Libyan leader Col. Muammar el Kadhafi should take from the statement, Mr. Shultz said, "The message is, you've had it, pal. You are isolated. You are recognized as a terrorist."

Officials said the secretary did not confine his new assertiveness to public appearances. At a meeting between the president and Helmut Kohl on forward basing of U.S. military equipment in Europe, Mr. Shultz flared when the West German chancellor said, "We want to help you with your problem."

"Wait a minute," said Mr. Shultz, interrupting Mr. Kohl. "This is not our problem, it's your problem."